



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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April 25, 2008

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - Commercial red meat production during March 2008 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 9 percent from both March 2007 and February 2008 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 635,000 pounds live weight, down 1 percent from March 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, the same as the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,099 pounds, was up 5 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 142,000 pounds live weight, down 15 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 263 pounds, was down 41 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in March 2007.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, down 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 17 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up slightly from March 2007. The average live weight was down 48 pounds from last year, at 273 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.96 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.66 million head, up 5 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.0 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

January to March 2008 commercial red meat production was 12.5 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 12 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

March 2007 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

March 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.